

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

* * *

RACHEL MARIE WHITTED,

Case No. 3:21-cv-00114-MMD-WGC

Plaintiff,

v.

STATE OF NEVADA DEPARTMENT
OF CORRECTIONS, *et al.*,

Defendants.

This action began with a *pro se* civil rights complaint filed pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 by Plaintiff Rachel Marie Whitted, who was a state prisoner. On August 18, 2021, this Court issued an order directing Whitted to file her updated address with this Court within 30 days. (ECF No. 6.) The 30-day period now has expired, and Whitted has not filed her updated address or otherwise responded to the Court's order.

District courts have the inherent power to control their dockets and "[i]n the exercise of that power, they may impose sanctions including, where appropriate . . . dismissal" of a case. *Thompson v. Hous. Auth. of City of Los Angeles*, 782 F.2d 829, 831 (9th Cir. 1986). A court may dismiss an action, with prejudice, based on a party's failure to prosecute an action, failure to obey a court order, or failure to comply with local rules. See *Ghazali v. Moran*, 46 F.3d 52, 53-54 (9th Cir. 1995) (dismissal for noncompliance with local rule); *Ferdik v. Bonzelet*, 963 F.2d 1258, 1260-61 (9th Cir. 1992) (dismissal for failure to comply with an order requiring amendment of complaint); *Carey v. King*, 856 F.2d 1439, 1440-41 (9th Cir. 1988) (dismissal for failure to comply with local rule requiring *pro se* plaintiffs to keep court apprised of address); *Malone v. U.S. Postal Serv.*, 833 F.2d 128, 130 (9th Cir. 1987) (dismissal for failure to comply with court order); *Henderson v. Duncan*, 779 F.2d 1421, 1424 (9th Cir. 1986) (dismissal for lack of prosecution and failure to comply with local rules).

1 In determining whether to dismiss an action for lack of prosecution, failure to obey
2 a court order, or failure to comply with local rules, the court must consider several factors:
3 (1) the public's interest in expeditious resolution of litigation; (2) the court's need to
4 manage its docket; (3) the risk of prejudice to the defendants; (4) the public policy favoring
5 disposition of cases on their merits; and (5) the availability of less drastic alternatives.
6 *Thompson*, 782 F.2d at 831; *Henderson*, 779 F.2d at 1423-24; *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 130;
7 *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1260-61; *Ghazali*, 46 F.3d at 53.

8 In the instant case, the Court finds that the first two factors, the public's interest in
9 expeditiously resolving this litigation and the Court's interest in managing the docket,
10 weigh in favor of dismissal. The third factor, risk of prejudice to Defendants, also weighs
11 in favor of dismissal, since a presumption of injury arises from the occurrence of
12 unreasonable delay in filing a pleading ordered by the court or prosecuting an action. See
13 *Anderson v. Air West*, 542 F.2d 522, 524 (9th Cir. 1976). The fourth factor—public policy
14 favoring disposition of cases on their merits—is greatly outweighed by the factors in favor
15 of dismissal discussed herein. Finally, a court's warning to a party that her failure to obey
16 the court's order will result in dismissal satisfies the "consideration of alternatives"
17 requirement. *Ferdik*, 963 F.2d at 1262; *Malone*, 833 F.2d at 132-33; *Henderson*, 779 F.2d
18 at 1424. The Court's order requiring Whitted to file her updated address with the Court
19 within 30 days expressly informed her that, if she failed to timely comply with that order,
20 this case would be subject to dismissal without prejudice. (ECF No. 6 at 2.) Thus, Whitted
21 had adequate warning that dismissal would result from her noncompliance with the
22 Court's order to file her updated address within 30 days.

23 ///

24 ///

25 ///

26 ///

27 ///

28 ///

1 It is therefore ordered that this action is dismissed without prejudice based on
2 Whitted's failure to file an updated address in compliance with this Court's August 18,
3 2021 order. If Whitted wishes to pursue any of her claims, she must file a complaint in a
4 new action.

5 The Clerk of Court is therefore directed to close this case. No other documents
6 may be filed in this closed case.

7 DATED THIS 24th Day of September 2021.

8
9 

10

MIRANDA M. DU
11 CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28